

GARBAGE GAZETTE

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CAN THE GAZETTE CONTINUE TO PUBLISH ON RECYCLED PAPER?

When time came to reorder "white, 70 lb., recycled #100 paper" for printing future issues of this newsletter, some very interesting facts came to light. Local demand for office paper made from recycled fiber seems to have declined over the past year. The Wisconsin mill producing the Gazette's distinctive tan-colored stock will not fill an order for less than 2½ tons. Declined demand has decreased the mill's production of this paper to special runs only. Each month the Gazette prints about 15 pounds of paper. A two-and-a-half ton stockpile would last over thirty-three years. This disturbing signal from the recycled paper market prompted some inquiries.

The state of Maryland passed a law in 1977 requiring state procurement of recycled paper products for office paper, toilet paper, tissues, paper towels, and the like. Richard Keller of Maryland's Energy Office provided some interesting insights into the status of Maryland's bid to stimulate the recycled paper market.

Is recycled office paper cost-competitive with virgin fiber paper?

During the first quarter of 1984, Maryland purchased both recycled fiber and virgin fiber office paper. The facts speak for themselves.

VIRGIN FIBER:	128,000 reams, 8½ x 11 cut size, \$ 2.090/ream
65-80% RECYCLED FIBER:	104,000 reams, 8½ x 11 cut size, \$ 2.098/ream

Mr. Keller thinks that, with a little more demand, the cost for the recycled office paper would decrease to meet or undercut the cost for virgin paper.

Is the quality of recycled fiber office paper inferior to that of virgin fiber paper?

Contrary to popular belief, there is no distinguishable difference. Maryland's recycled office paper is white in color, not the buff or off-white that folks expect to see. Duplicating machines, both high-speed and office-size, often need readjustment to accept the slightly different thickness and weight of recycled paper. Tear strength of paper made from recycled fiber is said to be less than that of virgin fiber paper, but this shortfall is compensated for by a proportion of virgin fiber included in the manufacturing process. For example, Maryland's purchase agreement requires that the paper mill certify "that the paper is made from 80% or more recycled secondary waste."

It is important to note two important points about what we call "recycled paper." First, it does not necessarily have to be made of 100% recycled fiber. In fact the question remains: how much recycled fiber makes a paper product a recycled paper product? Secondly, beware of manufacturers' claims that theirs is truly a recycled product. Virtually all mills reuse cuttings from their manufacturing and processing, but that does not constitute reuse of a post-consumer waste.

Where can Connecticut buyers purchase recycled office paper?

Local wholesalers and retailers are a good source of information. You'll find they buy paper from mills all over the U.S. They might also have, for your perusal, a comprehensive reference book titled Lockwood's Directory.

Lockwood's Directory is an annual publication of over 900 pages. Listed in this book are every U.S. paper mill, converter, sales outlet, and waste paper dealer. The reference outlines precisely what stock is used in the many grades of paper manufactured, including the more than 280 mills using waste paper.

As might be expected, the book is expensive, \$75.00, available from:

Vance Publishing Corporation
122 E. 42nd Street
New York, NY 10168

(Tel: (212) 682-7777)

Of less interest is government publication NDS-GCR-83-424, National Directory of Manufacturers Utilizing Recycled Materials, March 1983. This report was prepared for the National Bureau of Standards, Office of Recycled Materials, Washington, D.C. 20234 by the State of Florida Department of Environmental Regulation. The report lists paper mills and their products with some very sketchy information on the materials used in the manufacturing process. This tends to leave one skeptical about whether or not this is truly a recycled product. For example, the report lists eight mills in Massachusetts and three in New York, but offers no detail on materials used. On the other hand, the one mill listed for Connecticut (Georgia Pacific Corp. in Darien) includes detail on product:

forms, papers, commercial printing paper,
publishing paper, some specialty grade papers
and details on materials used:

printed publication paper sections, magazine
trimmings, envelope cuttings, book sections

This sounds like a less convincing recycling effort than Georgia Pacific's Kalamazoo mill which produces writing and printing paper from "post-consumer waste which has been deinked."

The Gazette will learn more about local availability of recycled office paper, will obtain a copy of Lockwood's Directory, and will return to the use of recycled paper for publication.

Will the State of Connecticut increase procurement of recycled paper products?

It's simply a matter of time before state government recognizes the wisdom of the example set by Maryland. Anyone interested in learning more about Maryland's mandated procurement of recycled paper products should contact:

Richard Keller, Manager
Procurement and Waste Management
Dept. of Natural Resources
Maryland Energy Office
301 West Preston Street
Suite 903

Baltimore, MD 21201 (Tel: (301) 383-6810)

Mr. Keller is justifiably proud of the success of the program and is very willing to spend time explaining it.

The Department has every intention of working with the Environment Committee in the next legislative session to see that Connecticut soon has such a law in its books. Readers of the Gazette can be a very helpful source of informed support for such an effort in the State legislature. Progress will be reported in future issues of this newsletter.

ARE RECYCLING CENTERS AN INSURANCE RISK?

Norm Cusak, CT Earth Action Group, Danbury, reports that his local recycling center must pay \$108/yr. higher insurance premiums as of this year. The higher cost was dictated by the insurance company's reclassification of the recycling center from "refuse dump" (cat.# 49532) to "scrap metal dealer" (cat.# 5871.)

EDITOR'S NOTE: Lois Hager created the Garbage Gazette and in two years managed to triple distribution. Her aid to communities and citizen groups will not soon be forgotten. Best wishes, Lois.

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